

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Applicant | Serguei Vatchians |
| Serial No. 10/ | Filing Date: July 15, 2003 |
| Title of Application: | A Method For Production Of Metal Foam Or Metal-Composite Bodies With Improved Impact, Thermal And Sound Absorption Properties |

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Preliminary Amendment

Dear Sir:

Please enter this preliminary amendment before examination of this case.

In the claims:

1. (original) A method for the production of metal chips comprising the steps of:

i) providing a mixture of a metal alloy powder with a foaming agent powder, said foaming agent having a given decomposition temperature above which the foaming agent decomposes into gas, and said powders comprising finely dispersed solid particles;

ii) pre-compacting the mixture of step i);

iii) heating the pre-compacted mixture of step ii) to a temperature below said decomposition temperature and at which permanent bonding of the particles can occurs;

v) hot compacting the mixture obtained in step iii) for producing a compacted body made of a metal matrix embedding the foaming agent; and

vi) reducing the compacted body into metal fragments and thereby obtaining foamable metal chips.

2. (original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step i) of providing the metal alloy powders and the foaming agent powder comprises the step of: